

Support for Amendment

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8-10, 14-20, 22-23, and 32 have been amended as seen in the Amendments to the Claims section of this paper. Claim 35 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1, 2, 8-10, 14-20, and 22 are amended to characterize the membrane as a spiral wound membrane. This amendment is supported by the specification at, for example, page 11, lines 8-10, and by original claim 26.

Claim 23 is amended to include the features of canceled claims 33 and 34.

Claims 37-41 are canceled as a result of the restriction requirement.

Accordingly, no new matter is introduced by these amendments, and entry thereof is requested. Upon entry, claims 1-32, 35 and 36 are active in this application.

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 34 and 35 contain allowable subject matter. The features of claims 33 and 34 have been incorporated into independent claim 23. As a result, it is submitted that claims 23-32, 35, and 36 are allowable.

Claim Objection

The Office Action includes an objection to claim 41. In view of the above amendment cancelling claims 37-41, it is believed that this objection has been rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Restriction Requirement

The Office Action reports a restriction requirement. In view of the cancellation of claims 37-41, it is believed that no further comments concerning the restriction requirement are necessary. It is additionally pointed out that the Applicants reserve the right to pursue cancelled claims 37-41 in a divisional patent application.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action includes a rejection of claims 4 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. In view of the amendment to claims 4 and 32, it is believed that this rejection has been rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Tabani et al.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Tabani et al.* (US 2002/0112743). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 provides for the treatment of a spiral wound membrane. *Tabani et al.* are directed cleaning hemofilters made of bundles of hollow fibers. See *Tabani et al.* at paragraph 11. It is submitted that spiral wound membranes are different from hemofilters made of bundles of hollow fibers. Accordingly, the claimed invention is not anticipated by *Tabani et al.*, and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Husain et al.

Claims 23, 26, 27, 28, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Husain et al.* (US 2002/0108906). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 34 was not subject to this rejection. Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 33 and 34. Accordingly, this rejection has been rendered moot, and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Tabani et al.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tabani et al.* (US 2002/0112743) in view of *Zha* (US 2001/0047962). Claims 8, 10, and 16-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tabani et al.* (US 2002/0112743). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tabani et al.* (US 2002/0112743) in view of *Kopp et al.* (US 5,643,455). Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tabani et al.* (US 2002/0112743) in view of *Baldrige et al.* (US 2003/0047510). Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tabani et al.* (US 2002/0112743) in view of *Cheryan* (1986). These rejections are traversed.

Independent Claim 1:

Claims 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 16-17 depend from independent claim 1. For at least the reasons discussed above for independent claim 1, *Tabani et al.*, *Zha*, *Kopp et al.*, *Baldrige et al.*, *Cheryan*, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a method for treating a separation facility including treating a plurality of spiral wound membranes with a multiphase treatment composition. Therefore, *Tabani et al.*, *Zha*, *Kopp et al.*, *Baldrige et al.*, *Cheryan*, alone or in combination, would not have suggested the presently claimed invention. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections as they relate to independent claim 1 and the claims that dependent from independent claim 1 is requested.

Independent Claim 18:

Claim 26 was not subject to any of these rejections. Independent claim 18 has been amended to include features recited in original claim 26. In particular, independent claim 18 has been amended to recite a method for treating a separation facility comprising treating spiral wound membranes with a multiphase treatment composition. Claims 19-21 depend from independent claim 18.

In view of the amendment to claim 18, it is submitted that claims 18-21 are allowable, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18-21 is requested.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Husain et al.

Claims 24, 25, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Husain et al.* (US 2002/0108906) in view of *Cheryan* (1986). Claim 29 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Husain et al.* (US 2002/0108906) in view of *Tabani et al.* (US 2002/0112743). Claims 30 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Husain et al.* (US 2002/0108906). Claim 33 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Husain et al.* (US 2002/0108906) in view of *Cheryan* (1998). These rejections are traversed.

Claims 24, 25, 29, 30, 31, 33, and 36 depend from independent claim 23. In view of the amendment to claim 23 incorporating the subject matter of claims 33 and 34, it is submitted that these rejections of been rendered moot, and withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

Conclusion

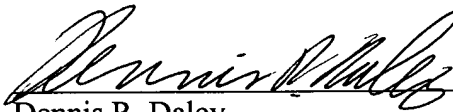
In summary, Applicants submit that claims 1-32, 35, and 36 are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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